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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/671,877	09/29/2003	Elmar Dörner	13909-097001 / 2002P10199	6017

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EXAMINER

AL AUBAIDI, RASHA S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2614

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	04/11/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/671,877

Applicant(s)

DORNER ET AL.

Examiner

Rasha S. AL-Aubaidi

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 22-39 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. The numbering of claims is not in accordance with 37 CFR 1.126 which requires the original numbering of the claims to be preserved throughout the prosecution. When claims are canceled, the remaining claims must not be renumbered. When new claims are presented, they must be numbered consecutively beginning with the number next following the highest numbered claims previously presented (whether entered or not).
2. Misnumbered claims 22-39 have been renumbered as 24-40.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

4. Claims 1-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shaffer et al. (US PAT # 6,532,218) in view of Beigl et al. (Pub No: US 2003/0222762).

Regarding claims 1, 13-14, 16, 23 and 32, Shaffer teaches a method of conducting a conference (see col. 1, lines 5-9 and abstract) comprising: subscribing to a conference data stream (this reads on participants who are registered in a video conferencing system, see col. 2, lines 59-62); publishing conference data messages (this reads on publishing the presentations to the participants, see col. 3, lines 8-12); receiving messages including the conference data stream (this reads on the participants questions, see col. 3, lines 12-16 and col. 5, lines 22-29); and presenting the messages to a user (this reads on answering participants requests).

Shaffer does not specifically teach the use of a content-based messaging (CBM) network.

However, Beigl teaches the use of a content-based messaging network, which allows receiving and publishing data to participants who are registered within this network [0014].

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the feature of using CBM, as taught by Beigl, into

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the Shaffer system in order to enhance the system and save the resources by providing only one network that handles conferencing, disturbs messages to participants and monitor all participants status and activities. Advantages are well known the art, such as providing smooth and efficient conference to all participants.

Regarding claims 2 and 25, Shaffer teaches presenting the messages to the user includes presenting video data to the user (see col. 3, lines 30-47).

Regarding claims 3 and 28, Shaffer teaches presenting the messages to the user includes presenting audio data to the user (see col. 3, lines 28-35).

Regarding claims 4, 15, 27 and 33, Shaffer teaches presenting the messages to the user includes presenting audio and video data to the user (see col. 3, lines 28-35).

Regarding claims 5, 17 and 34, Shaffer teaches presenting the messages to the user further comprises assembling the received messages into streaming video data and presenting the streaming video data to the user (see col. 3, lines 8-30).

Regarding claims 6, 18 and 35, Shaffer teaches presenting the messages to the user further comprises assembling the received messages into streaming audio data and presenting the streaming audio data to the user (see col. 3, lines 8-30).

Regarding claims 7, 19, 26, 29 and 36, Shaffer teaches presenting messages to the user further comprises assembling the received messages into streaming audio and video data and presenting the streaming audio and video data to the user (see col. 3, lines 28-35).

Claims 8, 20, 30 and 37 recite “presenting the messages to the user further comprises converting received messages from a real time transport protocol to a format required by the Java Media Framework (JMF) to present streaming audio and/or video data to the user”. Although, Shaffer teaches the use of a protocol that convert the received messages into a audio and video data that are presented to user (col. 3, lines 23-35). However, Shaffer does not specifically teach converting received messages from a real time transport protocol to a format required by the Java Media Framework (JMF). This limitation is obvious and is basically a design choice. Obviously, one of ordinary skill in the art can use any desired frame network programming language protocol to support and convert the received messages into comprehensive video and audio streams that are presented to users.

Claims 9, 31, 38 and 40 recite “initiating a conference by inviting a participant connected to the CBM network to join the conference”. The claimed limitation of “inviting participant...” is inherent in the Shaffer system.

Regarding claims 10-12, 21, 39, initiating a conference by inviting one or more

participants connected to the CBM network to join the conference and subscribing to a conference data stream of a content based messaging CBM network associated with each participant.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Chaney et al. (US PAT # 7, 151, 753) teaches a system and method for conducting a telephone call between a conference owner and other conference participants (see abstract.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rasha S AL-Aubaidi whose telephone number is (571) 272-7481. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ahmad Matar, can be reached on (571) 272-7488.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you

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have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rasha S. Al-Aubaidi', with a horizontal line underneath.

RASHA S. AL-AUBAIDI
PATENT EXAMINER

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04/01/2007